



CHICKENS & EGGS

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Maryland: Laying flocks produced 71million eggs during September 2004, of which 69 million were table eggs and 2 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 73.6 percent. The average number of layers on hand during September 2004 was 3,217,000. On October 1, 2003, 6 percent of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 23.0 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

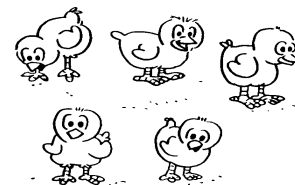
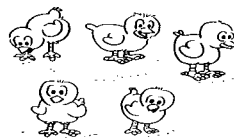
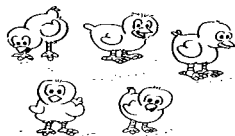
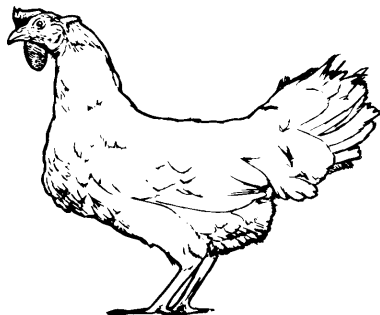
United States: Egg production totaled 7.32 billion during September 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2004 averaged 343 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,133 eggs, up slightly from September 2003.

Egg-type chicks hatched during September totaled 36.8 million, up 3 percent from September 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.7 million on October 1, 2004, up 13 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 205,000 during September 2004, down 25 percent from September 2003.

The September 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 770 million, was up 4 percent from September of the previous year. There were 617 million eggs in incubators on October 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 7.76 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during September 2004, up 17 percent from September 2003.

Eggs and Layers: September 2003 and 2004

Item	2003	2004	2004/ 2003
Eggs Produced During Sept	<i>Million</i>		<i>Percent</i>
U.S.	7,112	7,319	103
Maryland	66	71	108
Layers, Average Number During Sept	<i>Thousand</i>		
U.S.	334,198	343,120	103
Maryland	2,911	3,217	111
Eggs / 100 Layers During Sept	<i>Number</i>		
U.S.	2,128	2,133	100
Maryland	2,267	2,207	97



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received by Maryland farmers for the month of October were down for wheat, corn, and soybeans from September. Wheat prices fell \$0.13 from the previous month while the barley prices slightly increased. Corn and soybean prices fell \$0.54 and \$1.39 respectively.

Livestock prices from September show a decline in most categories. The all beef cattle price slightly decreased by \$0.04 per cwt but calf prices increased by \$8.25. Hog prices are down \$0.55 from September. Broiler and chicken prices are up slightly.

Prices Received, Maryland, Delaware & United States, September & October 2004

		Maryland and Delaware			United States			
Commodity	Unit	OCT	SEPT	OCT	OCT	SEPT	OCT	Parity
		2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	Price
Dollars								
Wheat, Winter	BU	3.08	3.06	2.93	3.37	3.26	3.29	10.10
Corn	BU	2.39	2.54	2.00	2.12	2.20	1.89	6.75
Barley	BU	1.83	1.81	1.88	2.74	2.43	2.36	6.70
Soybeans	BU	6.96	6.42	5.03	6.60	5.84	5.07	15.90
All Hay, Baled	TON	160.00	120.00	135.00	83.70	87.70	89.80	----
All Beef Cattle	CWT	86.80	79.80	79.76	91.50	85.80	86.40	170.00
Calves	CWT	94.90	90.20	98.45	112.00	129.00	127.00	228.00
Hogs	CWT	38.30	49.20	48.65	36.70	54.80	51.40	105.00
Chickens	LB	0.084	0.107	0.114	-----	-----	-----	-----
Broilers	LB	0.330	0.400	0.402	0.370	0.400	0.390	-----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.391	0.465	0.484	1.020
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.797	0.411	0.382	0.706	0.351	0.303	1.69

¹ Revised.

Index of Prices Received, United States, September 2003 & October 2003 and 2004

INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004
All Farm Products	113	*115	111
All Crops	111	*112	106
Feed Grain & Hay	96	*100	87
Oil- Bearing Crops	111	*95	89
Fruits & Nuts	125	138	153
All Livestock and Livestock Products	116	118	117
Meat Animals	115	119	118
Dairy Products	115	*118	119
Poultry and Eggs	118	118	115
Ratio ^{1/}	88	86	83
Prices Paid Index	129	134	134

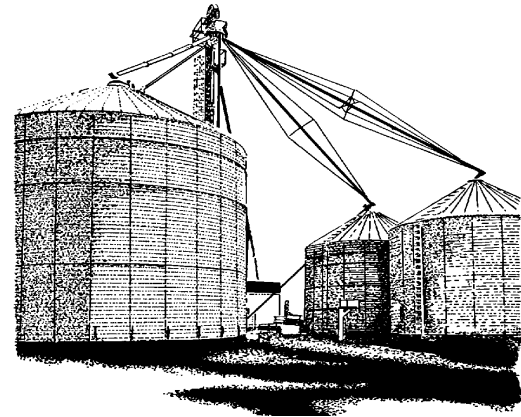
¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid

*Revised

GRAIN STOCKS

United States: Old crop corn stocks in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 958 million bushels, down 12 percent from September 1, 2003. Of the total stocks, 438 million bushels are stored on farms, down 10 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 520 million bushels, are down 14 percent from the previous year. The June - August 2004 indicated disappearance is 2.01 billion bushels, compared with 1.90 billion bushels during the same period last year. Old crop soybeans stored in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 112 million bushels, down 37 percent from September 1, 2003. This is the lowest ending stocks level since 1977. Soybean stocks stored on farms totaled 29.4 million bushels, down 49 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks are down 31 percent from September 1, 2003, to 83.1 million bushels. Indicated disappearance for June - August 2004 totaled 298 million bushels, down 30 percent from the same period a year earlier. Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 292 million bushels, up 21 percent from September 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 177 million bushels, 24 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 115 million bushels, are 16 percent above September 2003. The June-August 2004 indicated disappearance is 109 million bushels, 2 percent above the same period a year earlier. Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 116.3 million bushels, 12 percent below September 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on hand, 74.8 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 41.5 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during June-August 2004 totaled 65.1 million bushels, up 4 percent from the same period a year ago.

All wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 1.94 billion bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 796 million bushels, up 16 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, are down 15 percent from a year ago. The June-August 2004 indicated disappearance is 769 million bushels, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier. Old crop grain sorghum stored in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 33.6 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks at 3.70 million bushels, are down 18 percent from September 1 last year. Off-farm stocks, at 29.9 million bushels, are down 23 percent from a year earlier. The June-August 2004 indicated disappearance from all positions is 47.0 million bushels, up from 38.9 million bushels during the same period a year ago.



Grain Stocks: by Position, United States, September 1, 2003 - 2004						
Commodities	2003			2004		
	On Farms	Off Farms ¹	Total All Positions	On Farms	Off Farms ¹	Total All Positions
<i>1,000 Bushels</i>						
Corn	484,900	601,773	1,086,673	438,000	519,672	957,672
Soybeans	58,000	120,329	178,329	29,400	83,089	172,489
Sorghum	4,500	38,530	43,030	3,700	29,855	33,555
Oats	82,100	49,637	131,737	74,800	41,454	116,254
Barley	141,900	99,730	241,630	176,500	115,305	291,805
All Wheat	687,320	1,351,652	2,038,972	795,600	1,146,115	1,941,715

¹ Include stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors

MILK PRODUCTION

Maryland dairy operators produced 282 billion pounds of milk during the July-September 2004 quarter, down 4 percent from the same quarter a year earlier. The number of milk cows was 73,000 head, 4,000 head below from the same quarter a year earlier. Production per cow is 3,863 pounds for the quarter, up 1 percent from the same quarter last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.1 billion pounds, 1 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.03 million head, 40,000 head less than the same period last year.

Milk Cows And Production, July-September 2003-2004

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		2004/2003
	2003	2004	2003 ³	2004	2003	2004	
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Maryland	77	73	3,818	3,863	294	282	96
United States	9,073	9,033	4,601	4,671	41,746	42,194	101

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Revised

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